



EXHIBIT 7
DATE Jan. 17, 2013
HD 6

Joint Appropriations Committee – Long Range Planning; House Bill – 6; Wednesday, January 16th

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Rostad with the Sweet Grass County Conservation District, where I serve as the Watershed Group Coordinator for the Boulder River Watershed Association. With me today are Chad Raisland, our project engineer and Stuart Stenberg, a rancher from McLeod and Chairman of the Boulder River Watershed Association.

This project will fund installation of a permanent rock weir structure in the lower Boulder River that will provide a maintenance-free diversion for the Pioneer Ditch. The Pioneer Ditch Company is one of the oldest recorded corporations in Montana and serves many irrigators and Agricultural producers.

The Boulder River Watershed Association has provided funding for professionally engineered design and assessment services for this project and several others in the watershed.

In the ten years that the watershed association has been in existence, three of these diversion structures have been successfully installed at different locations in the Boulder River and its tributaries. These structures have stood the test of time and high flow spring runoffs and still function as they were designed.

It is important to note that one of these projects was funded entirely by a private landowner who wanted to improve the diversion function while enhancing the fisheries habitat and reinforce the stream channel riparian area. This project has been a phenomenal example of how these types of structures can be used successfully.

Since then, two more structures have been constructed, funded by the DNRC's Renewable Resource Program, with significant contributions from landowners and irrigators, also providing fisheries habitat enhancement and stream channel stabilization.

The Boulder River Watershed Association and Sweet Grass Conservation District are committed to seeking opportunities like this that provide long-term solutions to preserve and protect our renewable resources.

We are pleased that the DNRC staff and review team have ranked this project so highly and we are grateful for the wonderful working relationship that has been established between our groups and the DNRC.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our project.

We are available to answer your questions.

Dan Rostad, Watershed Group Coordinator

Boulder River Watershed Association

Sweet Grass County Conservation District



Sweet Grass County
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